

Message Text

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20

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 DRC-01 /240 W

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P R 140950Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6016

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 6479

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, GATT, US

SUBJECT: THE GATT TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE DISPUTE

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 6347; (B) GENEVA 6035

1. SUMMARY. SOAMES HAS ADVISED US, THROUGH HIS CHEF DE CABINET, THAT HE DOES NOT RPT NOT PLAN TO ACCEPT LONG'S SUGGESTION FOR AN EARLY TRIPARTITE (US/EC/JAPAN) MEETING TO TRY TO OVERCOME THE TNC DISPUTE (REFTEL B). SOAMES CONSIDERS SUCH A MEETING AT THIS STAGE WOULD BE (A) TOO VISIBLE; (B) PREMATURE IN TERMS OF THE PROBLEM OF SORTING OUT THE POSITION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY; AND (C) UNNECESSARY IN VIEW OF THE DELAY ON THE TRADE BILL. THE COMMISSION IS, HOWEVER, PREPARED TO CONSULT FURTHER WITH US BILATERALLY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN KEEPING WITH THE SOAMES/EBERLE UNDERSTANDING ON CAREFUL MANAGEMENT AND CLEAR COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING THE TNC (REFTEL A PARA 6), HANNAY HAS DISCUSSED WITH US THE CURRENT INFORMAL EFFORTS BY LONG TO
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GET SOME MOVEMENT UNDERWAY. MAKING CLEAR THAT HE WAS

ACTING ON SOAMES' BEHALF, HANNAY TOLD US SOAMES HAD JUST ADVISED LONG THAT HE DID NOT RPT NOT FAVOR THE IDEA OF AN EARLY TRIPARTITE MEETING (SOAMES, EBERLE, AND TSURUMI).

3. ACCORDING TO HANNAY, SOAMES BELIEVES THAT AN EARLY MEETING WOULD BE UNWISE AND IMPRACTICABLE IN THAT THE COMMISSION NEEDS MORE TIME TO WORK OUT SOME AGREEMENT AMONG THE MEMBER STATES ON POSSIBLE MEANS OF OVERCOMING THE IMPASSE ON THE HANDLING OF AGRICULTURE IN THE TNC. HANNAY ALSO SAID SOAMES FEELS THERE IS LESS NEED FOR SPEED AND PRESSURE ON THIS ISSUE IN VIEW OF THE DELAY IN CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF THE TRADE BILL (SEE REFTEL A). LASTLY, SOAMES IS CONCERNED THAT FOR HIM TO TAKE THE UNUSUAL STEP OF PARTICIPATING IN A HIGH-LEVEL, TRIPARTITE MEETING WOULD EITHER (A) RAISE UNJUSTIFIED PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS OF A POSITIVE BREAKTHROUGH ON THE NEGOTIATIONS OR (B) RISK CREATION OF A CRISIS ATMOSPHERE.

4. HANNAY SAID IT IS SOAMES' VIEW THAT, FOR THE PRESENT, IT IS BEST TO AVOID ALL MULTILATERAL MEETINGS AND LET LONG KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE KEY PARTIES INDIVIDUALLY.

5. IN PASSING ON THE FOREGOING VIEWS, HANNAY SAID SOAMES WISHES PARTICULARLY TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH US AND TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS. THEREFORE, IF WE HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH THE EC POSTURE IN THIS SITUATION, SOAMES URGES THAT WE DISCUSS THE MATTER DIRECTLY WITH THE COMMISSION -- IF NECESSARY, WITH HIM PERSONALLY. HANNAY SAID HE HAD TO MAKE CLEAR IN ALL HONESTY THAT PRESSURE EITHER BY LONG OR BY THE US TO MOVE THE COMMUNITY QUICKLY IN OVERCOMING THE TNC DIFFICULTY WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL. GREENWALD

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